

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth below. The complete set of claims is provided below in compliance with the Revised Amendment format authorized by Deputy Commissioner Kunin in the January 31, 2003 United States Patent and Trademark Office release. The status of each claim is shown next to each claim number; current additions are shown by underlines and deletions are shown by strikethrough.

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for assembling absorbent garments, the apparatus comprising:

an applicator having one or more heads, each head being located on a fixed-length arm, and each head being adapted to hold absorbent garment parts;
a motor adapted to rotate the applicator;
a control device adapted to control the rotational speed of the motor;
wherein the control device is operated such that the one or more applicator heads travel at a first speed at a first location to pick up one or more parts moving at approximately the first speed, and the one or more applicator heads travel at a second speed at a second location to deposit the one or more parts onto one or more targets moving at approximately the second speed.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the applicator has two heads.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more heads comprises a vacuum gripping device.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more heads comprises a mechanical gripping device.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more heads comprises a combination of gripping devices.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the motor is an AC servo motor.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control device at least partially comprises an AC servo drive.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more parts are absorbent core substrates and the one or more applicator heads are adapted to pick up, convey and deposit the absorbent core substrates.
9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the one or more targets are an absorbent core tissue layer or an absorbent core and the one or more applicator heads are adapted to deposit the absorbent core substrates onto the core tissue later or absorbent core.
10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more targets comprises an absorbent garment chassis layer and the one or more applicator heads are adapted to deposit the one or more parts onto the absorbent garment chassis layer.
11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the one or more parts are absorbent core subassemblies and the one or more applicator heads are adapted to pick up, convey and deposit the absorbent core subassemblies.
12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the one or more parts are grip tabs and the one or more applicator heads are adapted to pick up, convey and deposit the grip tabs.
13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more targets comprises a supply of spaced apart target objects and the one or more applicator heads are adapted to deposit the one or more parts onto the supply of spaced apart target objects.
14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more targets comprises a continuous web of target material and the one or more applicator heads are adapted to deposit the one or more parts onto the continuous web of target material.
15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first speed is less than the second speed.
16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is equal to about 3% to about 75% of the second speed.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is equal to about 10% to about 50% of the second speed.
18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is equal to about 20% of the second speed.
19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is about 20 feet per minute to about 1,000 feet per minute and the second speed is about 50 feet per minute to about 3,000 feet per minute.
20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is about 40 feet per minute to about 650 feet per minute and the second speed is about 1,000 feet per minute to about 2,000 feet per minute.
21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is about 65 feet per minute to about 328 feet per minute and the second speed is about 1,686 feet per minute.
22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first speed is greater than the second speed.
23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more heads further comprises a cutting device adapted to cut the one or more parts from a continuous supply web.
24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more heads further comprises a bonding device adapted to bond the one or more parts to the one or more targets.
25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the bonding device comprises a portion of an ultrasonic bonding device.
26. (Currently amended) An apparatus for assembling absorbent garments, the apparatus comprising:
 - an a fixed-length applicator means adapted to hold absorbent garment parts;
 - a driving means for rotating the fixed length applicator means;
 - a control means adapted to control the driving means;

wherein the control device is operated such that the fixed-length applicator means travels at a first speed at a first location to pick up one or more parts moving at approximately the first speed, and the fixed-length applicator means travels at a second speed at a second location to deposit the one or more parts onto one or more targets moving at approximately the second speed.

27. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the fixed-length applicator means comprises a rotating assembly having one or more applicator heads.
28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the driving means comprises an AC servo motor.
29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the control means at least partially comprises an AC servo drive.